

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 13, as follows:

1. to 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A fluid communication structure for providing fluid communication between a liquid containing section for containing a liquid and a liquid consuming section for consuming the liquid, said fluid communication structure comprising:

a liquid chamber communicating with said liquid consuming section; and
plural communication channels for providing communication between said liquid chamber and said liquid containing section,

wherein said plural communication channels have different heights of their opening positions in said liquid chamber side with reference to a vertical direction, and

wherein said liquid chamber forms a substantial closed space except said plural communication channels and said liquid consuming section, and in a state where a gas exists inside the closed space, the gas can be transferred to said liquid containing section via a part of said plural communication channels.

5. (Original) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein said fluid communication structure, in terms of its position during liquid consumption, is positioned substantially below said liquid containing section and

positioned substantially above said liquid consuming section with reference to a vertical direction.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Original) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein in accordance with a relationship between a pressure difference originating from a water head of the liquid corresponding to a difference among the vertical heights of openings of said plural communication channels, inside said liquid consuming section and a difference among pressures originating from menisci formed by the liquid in the individual communication channels, an operation is performed such that, the gas in said closed space is transferred to said liquid containing section via the part of said plural communication channel, while the liquid is moved from said liquid containing section to said liquid consuming section via another part of said plural communication channels.

8. (Original) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein only the part of said plural communication channels is formed such that a part of the openings inside said liquid consuming section comes into contact with an inner wall of said liquid consuming section.

9. (Original) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein only the part of said plural communication channels has a portion forming a

groove extending along the communication channel and projecting from the opening of the communication channel inside said liquid chamber.

10. (Previously Presented) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein only the part of said plural communication channels is configured such that its opening inside the liquid chamber is always in contact with a liquid present in said liquid chamber.

11. (Original) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein inner walls of said plural communication channels have different contact angles with the liquid.

12. (Original) A fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4, wherein said plural communication channels have different inside diameters.

13. (Currently Amended) An ink supply system, comprising:
a recording head for ejecting an ink;
a liquid chamber communicating with said recording head;
an ink tank for containing the ink and which includes pressure adjusting means ~~fore~~ for adjusting a pressure inside the system; and
plural communication channels for providing communication between said liquid chamber and said ink tank,

wherein said liquid chamber forms a substantial closed space except said plural communication channels and said recording head,

wherein said pressure adjusting means performs the pressure adjustment so that a pressure that prevents leakage of the ink from said recording head and that permits an ink ejecting state of said recording head section acts inside the system; and

wherein said pressure adjusting means has means for placing said recording head into a negative pressure state relative to an atmosphere pressure and means for introducing atmosphere directly into said ink tank without via said liquid chamber in order to adjust the negative pressure state.

14. to 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) An inkjet recording head for ejecting an ink to thereby perform recording, the inkjet recording head having the fluid communication structure as claimed in claim 4 integral therewith.

24. (Original) An inkjet recording apparatus, wherein an ink supply system as claimed in claim 13 is used to perform recording as holding said ink supply system such that said liquid chamber is positioned substantially above said recording head and said ink tank is positioned substantially above said liquid chamber, in terms of their positions in use, with reference to a vertical direction.

25. and 26. (Cancelled)